



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Österreichisches Nationalkomitee
Man and the
Biosphere Programme

ÖAW

ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

AUSTRIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO'S MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME (MAB)

Summary Report for the Year 2018



Small mountain lake in the Nockberge part of the BR "Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge" (Photo: H. Mayer)

*Austrian MAB National Committee
c/o Austrian Academy of Sciences
International Research Programmes
Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2
1010 Vienna*

Austria

Tel: +43 1 51581 2771

Fax: +43 1 51581 1275

E-mail: guenter.koeck@oeaw.ac.at

WWW: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at>

Homepage of the Austrian MAB Programme: <http://www.biosphaerenparks.at/>

1. NATIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING:

In 2013, the Austrian MAB Programme celebrated its 40th anniversary. Since 2011 MAB-Austria is part of the new research structure "Earth System Sciences (ESS)". ESS, an initiative of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), financed by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), aims at studying the physical, chemical, hydrological, biological, social, technological and economic processes of the Earth System and their interaction. ESS is an interface between Austrian science and international research and is directly integrated in international research programmes and cooperation (e.g. UNESCO's MAB, IGCP and IHP programmes, WCRP, UNISDR, LTER, ISCAR, Future Earth) through its three National Committees (NC) *Global Change*, *Geo/Hydro-Sciences*, and *Man and the Biosphere (MAB)*. These NCs, made up of renowned scientists and representatives of several ministries and federal organizations, monitor the Austrian research activities, analyse its strengths and knowledge gaps and work out targeted new research foci.

The MAB NC supports and advises Austrian biosphere reserves (BRs), develops guidelines and criteria, stimulates and funds research projects and assists research in BRs.

Members of the Austrian MAB National Committee:

Chair:

Assoc. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Arne Arnberger, Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, Department of Spatial-, Landscape-, and Infrastructure-Sciences; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna. Peter-Jordan-Straße 65, 1180 Vienna Austria. Phone +43-1-47654-85315, Fax +43-1-47654-85309, arne.arnberger@boku.ac.at;
<https://www.rali.boku.ac.at/ilen/personen/arne-arnberger/>

Vice Chair:

Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Marianne Penker, Institute for Sustainable Economic Development, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Feistmantelstraße 4, A-1180 Vienna, Austria. Phone: +43-1-47654-73115; marianne.penker@boku.ac.at;
<http://www.wiso.boku.ac.at/inwe/persoenliche-websites/marianne-penker-website/marianne-penker/>

Executive Secretary:

Dr. Günter Köck, Austrian Academy of Sciences, International Research Programmes, Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, A-1010 Vienna, Tel. ++43 1 51581-2771, Fax: ++43 1 51581-1275; guenter.koeck@oeaw.ac.at;
<http://www.oeaw.ac.at>

Other Members:

Em. Univ. Prof. Dr. Georg Grabherr (University of Vienna), Honorary Member of the MAB Committee

Em. Univ. Prof. Dr. Marina Fischer-Kowalski (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna)

Univ. Prof. Dr. Norbert Weixlbaumer (University of Vienna)

Univ. Prof. Dr. Sigrid Stagl (University of Economics and Business Vienna)

Dr. Elisabeth Haring (Natural History Museum Vienna)

Dr. Harald Pauli (ÖAW - Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna)

Dr. Franz Essl (University of Vienna, Environment Agency Austria)

Dr. Volker Mauerhofer (Meiji University, Tokyo, Japan)

Mag. Gabriele Eschig (Austrian Commission for UNESCO)

Mag. Ernst-Peter Brezovsky (Ministry of Europe, Integration and International Affairs)

Dr. Karolina Begusch-Pfefferkorn (Ministry of Education, Science and Research)

Dr. Karl Kienzl (Environmental Agency Austria)

DI Maximilian Albrecht (Austrian Federal Provinces)

DI Arno Mohl (World Wildlife Fund for Nature)

In 2018, two meetings of the Austrian NC for MAB took place. The managers of the Austrian BRs participated in the meetings, reported about activities in their region and discussed future research strategies with the NC members. One of the meetings was held in the town of Bad Kleinkirchheim, situated in Carinthian part of the BR “Salzburger Lungau and Kärntner Nockberge” including consultations with stakeholders and the visit of several local food producers in the region.

For the year 2018 the total funding for MAB, provided by the Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Research, was

EURO 170.000,- = US\$ 190.481,-¹

¹ Exchange rate per 10/05/2019

This funding was entirely used for research projects and additional MAB-related activities.

2. FUNDING CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO

MAB Biannual Activity Report 2016 - 2017: The Austrian MAB National Committee has supported the publication of the “MAB Biannual Activity Report 2016 – 2017” with an amount of approx. US\$ 14,716. The publication, coordinated by Maria Cardenas Rosa, Miguel Clusener-Godt and Günter Köck, summarizes the activities undertaken by the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in 2016 and 2017. The production of the report was carried out by the Austrian publishing house EDITION LAMMERHUBER, worldwide recognized for its photography books. The report (ISBN English Version 978-3-903101-56-2) is available in English, French and Spanish languages.

Download: http://www.biosphaerenparks.at/images/pdf/180717_mab_english_fin-compressed.pdf



2. CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF MAB:

According to the research agenda for the Austrian MAB Programme, and in response to the priorities set by the International MAB Council, the Austrian National MAB-Committee has focused its research activities predominantly on the needs of Austrian BRs. However, to deepen the involvement of Austrian expertise in international MAB research, the MAB Committee is also funding international research cooperations with BRs and BR projects in foreign countries.

Currently five research projects are funded by the Austrian MAB Programme.

Project Title	Coordinator
Experimental networks for sustainability: Urban Biosphere Reserves as engines of transitions (ENESUS)	M. Coy (University of Innsbruck)
Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring based on Social and Environmental ecosystem services (BRIMSEN)	T. Wrbka (University of Vienna)
Perception and Reality of Recreational User Conflicts in the UNESCO Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (UserConflicts)	R. Eder (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna)
Lessons Learned for the Management Policy of the Biosphere Reserve "Oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha" (Peru) based upon the inhabitants' local knowledge and available global scientific knowledge (AGROBIO-K_NOW)	C.R. Vogl (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna)
Samothraki as a Biosphere Reserve: Securing continuity of science-civil society collaboration in a systemic design (SamoMAB)	P. Petridis (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna)

Furthermore, the Austrian MAB Committee is co-financing the international MAB research project “AkIdEn - Akzeptanz, Identifikation und Engagement: Ansichten und Mitwirkung der Bevölkerung in UNESCO Biosphärenreservaten“, studying acceptance, identification and engagement of people living in seven BRs in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN AUSTRIA:

Since 2014, and in full accordance with the MAB Programme’s “Process of excellence and enhancement of the WNBR as well as quality improvement of all members of the World Network“, Austria has reduced the number of its BRs from seven to three. However, the remaining areas are very well functioning BRs with a broad range of scientific and educational activities.

Approved: three sites	
<i>Großes Walsertal (approved 2000)</i>	Situated in Western Austria, reaching from mountain river alluvia, mountain farmlands to high alpine peaks, this BR is designed and implemented according to the Seville Strategy. In 2011, the International Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves recommended that the site is considered as a model site, whose practices should be shared within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
<i>Wienerwald (approved 2005)</i>	The Vienna Woods are the largest contiguous area of deciduous woodland in Central Europe. The area is situated in close vicinity to the city of Vienna. The location of such a large area of woodland on the outskirts of a major city is unique.
<i>Salzburger Lungau und Kärntner Nockberge (approved 2012)</i>	The area consists of a representative example of inner-alpine landscapes with high mountains and deep valleys. The region is a cultural landscape far removed from large conurbations and major traffic routes. A large part of the agricultural land consists of alpine meadows and pastures, and the food specialties of the region – most of them organic and based on local bio-cultural diversity – are of a high quality.
BR candidate: one area	
<i>Unteres Murtal</i>	This area is dedicated as Austrian contribution to the 5-countries trans-boundary biosphere reserve (Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia) along the Mura-Drava-Danube corridor. The Austrian MAB Committee is actively involved in the International Coordination Board of the 5-countries transboundary BR project. The Austrian proposal has been submitted to UNESCO in September 2018.
At present, several Austrian regions are discussing chances and options of the biosphere reserve status for their communities.	

4. OTHER ACTIVITIES, AWARDS:

July 2018:

The Austrian MAB Committee represented by G. Köck attended the 30th meeting of the MAB International Coordinating Council in Palembang (Indonesia).

June 2018:

Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Member of the Austrian MAB Committee, was awarded the prestigious prize of the International Society for Industrial Ecology for her outstanding contributions to the field of industrial ecology.

In the laudatio delivered by the ISIE president, Edgar Hertwich, Fischer-Kowalski was praised for single-handedly merging two academic disciplines of industrial ecology with social ecology when she founded an Institute for Social Ecology in Vienna in the late 1980s. Furthermore, he lauded Fischer-Kowalski’s contribution to the conceptual development of the field, the positioning within sustainability science, the initiation of a powerful dataset that is now a core element of the United Nations’ Material Flow database, and her role in the institutional foundation of the field.



Left: E. Hertwich; Right: M. Fischer-Kowalski
(Photo credit: Christoph Gruber/BOKU)

July to September 2018:

Members of the MAB Committee were intensively involved in the preparation of the nomination for the proposed new BR "Unteres Murtal", dedicated as the Austrian contribution to the 5-countries trans-boundary biosphere reserve (Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia) along the Mura-Drava-Danube corridor. G. Köck participated in the final preparatory workshop held in Mureck (Styria) in September 2018,

November 2018:

In November 2018, the MAB Committee has launched a new call for MAB research projects. The main topics of the call were the sustainable development of BRs and the further implementation of the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN „2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development“ in Austrian BRs.

6. PUBLICATIONS:

The research projects funded by the MAB National Committee yield not only a series of research reports but also a range of research articles in scientific journals.

Based on a successful cooperation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press (AASP) almost all Austrian MAB project reports were published online at the AASP homepage. At present, some 30 documents can be downloaded from the homepage of Austrian Academy of Sciences Press or via the MAB-Austria website: <http://epub.oew.ac.at/Projektberichte>; <http://www.biosphaerenparks.at/>

Project reports:

Erhalt der biologischen und kulturellen Vielfalt. Modelle für nachhaltige Entwicklungsstrategien im 21. Jahrhundert. Orte der Forschung, Bildung und Umweltbeobachtung (doi: 10.1553/ibk; ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3742-9)

Biosphere Reserves in Austria - Grundlagenerhebung und Stand der Forschung (ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3599-9)

Nachhaltiges Waldbiomassenmanagement im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald (doi: 10.1553/wald, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3839-6, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3839-6)

EUROMAB AUSTRIA 2005 Meeting of the Euromab Biosphere Reserve Coordinators and Managers (doi: 10.1553/euromab_austria2005, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3715-3)

Leben in Vielfalt (doi: 10.1553/3-7001-3337-5; ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3337-7 ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3374-2)

Inspired by diversity (ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3596-8 ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3612-5)

Leitfaden für Forschung und Monitoring im Biosphärenpark Wienerwald (doi: 10.1553/lfbmw, ISBN 978-3-7001-3742-9)

Leitfaden für Forschung und Monitoring im Biosphärenpark Großes Walsertal (doi: 10.1553/lfbmgw, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3717-7)

Re-designing the Research Agenda of MAB-Austria, in special consideration of BRIM: A Feasibility Study Final Report (doi: 10.1553/rra_mab)

Monitoring von Luftschadstoffen (NO_x und SO₂, Schwermetall-, Stickstoff-, Schwefel- und PAH-Depositionen) mittels Moosen im "Biosphärenpark Wienerwald" (doi: 10.1553/luft, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-3852-5, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-3852-5)

Integrated Sustainable Wildlife Management in the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald (doi: 10.1553/ISWIMAB, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6626-9)

Redesigning the Biosphere Reserve NeusiedlerSee (doi: 10.1553/rbrns, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-6692-4, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6692-4)

Ökologische und soziale Tragfähigkeiten als Managementherausforderungen für suburbane Biosphärenparke am Beispiel Untere Lobau (doi: 10.1553/MAB-OEST, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6781-5)

Part_b: Partizipationsprozesse in Biosphärenparks – Interventionstheorie, Strategie-analyse und Prozessethik am Beispiel vom Biosphärenpark Wienerwald, Großes Walsertal und Nationalpark Nockberge (doi: 10.1553/mab-partB, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6870-6)

Transboundary Information Exchange for Revision and Functional Improvement of Zonation of the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve (Czech Republic) (doi: 10.1553/mab-tierafiz-lmbr-2010, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-7025-9, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7025-9)

Evaluating the zonation for the Biosphere Reserve Wienerwald: How well does the conversation zone contribute to biodiversity conservation? (doi: 10.1553/mab_biosphere_wienerwald, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-8136-1)

CheckKid - Kids entdecken die Kernzone (doi: 10.1553/Checkid2010, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7038-9)

Geophysikalische Messungen in Tulum (Mexiko) - 2010 (doi: 10.1553/mab-geophys-tulum-2010, ISBN-13: 978-3-7001-6971-0 ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-6971-0)

Biokulturelle Vielfalt: Biokulturelle Vielfalt – Vom lokalen Erfahrungswissen zu Pflanzen im Biosphärenpark Großes Walsertal (doi: 10.1553/MAB-MOBDIBRGW; ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7347-2)

Perspective Lobau 2020: Exploring management options of a heavily used urban biosphere reserve confronted with new urban developments in its neighbourhood considering a restricted potential for ecosystem development (doi: 10.1553/Lobau2020, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7288-8)

Integrative Sustainable Wildlife Management - Principles, Criteria and Indicators for Hunting, Forestry, Agriculture, Recreation (doi: 10.1553/ISWIMAN, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7216-1)

IESP - Towards Integrated Ecological Spatial Planning for the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (doi: 10.1553/IESP-Wienerwald, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7292-5)

Biosphärenpark School-Twinning (doi: 10.1553/MAB-BST, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7691-6)

Reservas de la Biosfera de Chile Laboratorios para la Sustentabilidad (doi: 10.1553/ReservasBiosferas1, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7624-4)

Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring – Salzburger Lungau & Kärntner Nockberge (doi: 10.1553/MAB-BRIM, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7753-1)

REPAnext - Regional Economic and Perceptual Analyses in an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Future strategies for regional development in the BR Großes Walsertal against the background of demographic change: What comes next? (doi:10.1553/MAB-REPA-Next, ISBN Online 978-3-7001-7992-4)

Biosphere People - Local residents' views on the Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve (doi: 10.1553/mab_biospherepeople, ISBN Online 978-3-7001-8083-8)

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as scientific foundation for the sustainable implementation of the Redesigned Biosphere Reserve "Neusiedler See" (doi:10.1553/bioserv-neusiedler-see, ISBN-13 Online: 978-3-7001-7289-5)

HealthSpaces - Biosphere Reserve Landscapes and Human Health Benefits: Analysing the Potential of the Biosphere reserve Wienerwald on life quality and psychological well-being (doi: 10.1553/mab_healthspaces, ISBN Online 978-3-7001-8056-2)

Healthy Alps - Alpine landscapes under global change: Impacts of land-use change on regulating ecosystem services, biodiversity, human health and well-being (doi: 10.1553/ESS-HEALTHY-ALPS, ISBN-13 Online 978-3-7001-8460-7)

List of selected articles in scientific journals:

Humer-Gruber, A. (2018). Where farmers see their role – Influence on sustainable regional development approaches in Alpine biosphere reserves. *eco.mont - Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research* 10(2), 5-14. 28-35. <http://austriaca.at/0xc1aa5576%20x00390a5b.pdf>

Hussain, R.I., R. Walcher, D. Brandl, A. Arnberger, J.G. Zaller, J.G. and T. Frank (2018). Efficiency of two methods of sampling used to assess the abundance and species diversity of adult Syrphidae (Diptera) in mountainous meadows in the Austrian and Swiss Alps. *Eur. J. Entomol.* 115, 150-156. <https://www.eje.cz/pdfs/eje/2018/01/14.pdf>

Hussain, R.I.; R. Walcher, D. Brandl, I. Jernej, A. Arnberger, J.G. Zaller and T. Frank (2018). Influence of abandonment on syrphid assemblages in mountainous meadows. *J. Appl. Entomol.* 142(4), 450-456. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jen.12482>

Carena J. van Riper, C.J., A. Thiel, M. Penker, M. Braito, A.C. Landon, J.M. Thomsen and C.M. Tucker (2018). Incorporating multilevel values into the social-ecological systems framework. *Ecology and Society* 23(3), 25-35. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-10047-230325>

Arnberger, A.; R. Eder, B. Allex, M. Ebenberger, H.-P. Hutter, P. Wallner, N. Bauer, J.G. Zaller and T. Frank (2018). Health-Related Effects of Short Stays at Mountain Meadows, a River and an Urban Site—Results from a Field Experiment. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 15, 2647-2466. <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/15/12/2647/pdf>

Arnberger, A., R. Eder, B. Allex, H.-P. Hutter, P. Wallner, N. Bauer, J.G. Zaller and T. Frank (2018). Perceived health benefits of managed and unmanaged meadows in a mountain biosphere reserve – an experimental study in the Austrian Alps. *eco.mont - Journal on Protected Mountain Areas Research* 10(1), 5-14. <http://www.austriaca.at/0xc1aa5576%20x0037471f.pdf>

Fetzel, T., P. Petridis, D. Noll, S.J. Singh and M. Fischer-Kowalski (2018). Reaching an Ecological Tipping Point: Overgrazing on the Greek Island of Samothraki as a result of European agricultural policies. *Land Use Policy* 76, 21-28. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264837717308347>

Hutter, HP, Weitensfelder, L., Wanek, G., Wallner, G., Eder, R., Allex, B., Bauer, N., Zaller, J.G., Frank, T., Arnberger, A. (2018). Healthy Alps: Effekte alpiner Wiesen auf die kognitive Leistungsfähigkeit. *Medi.um*, 02-03/2018, 14-14

List of selected conference and workshop papers:

Arnberger, A.; Alex, A.; Eder, R.; Hutter, H.-P.; Wallner, P. (2018): Do urban environments with different degrees of naturalness differently effect human health and wellbeing? 48th Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ), Vienna, AUSTRIA, 10.09.2018 - 14.09.2018. In: Gesellschaft für Ökologie e.V. (GfÖ), Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Ökologie · Band 47/48.

Arnberger, A., Alex, B., Eder, R., Hutter, H.-P., Wallner, P., Bauer, N., Zaller, J.G. & Frank, T. (2018): Protected areas' landscapes as resources for human health and well-being – case studies from Austria. 6th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas, Salzburg, Nov 2-3, 2017. In: Salzburger Nationalparkfonds, 6th Symposium for Research in Protected Areas Conference Volume , pp. 11-13; ISBN: 978-3-7001-8317-4.

Bohner, A; Karrer, J; Walcher, R; Brandl, D; Michel, K; Arnberger, A; Frank, T; Zaller, JG (2018): Ökologische Auswirkungen der Flächenstilllegung von gemähten Halbtrockenrasen: Fallstudien in drei Bergregionen in den Ostalpen. 18. Österreichische Botanik-Tagung & 24. Internationale Tagung der Sektion für Biodiversität und Evolutionsbiologie der Deutschen Botanischen Gesellschaft, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, September 19-22, 2018, Carinthia II, 68, 15-15.

Hussain, RI; Walcher, R; Brandl, D; Jernej, I; Arnberger, A; Zaller, JG; Frank, T (2018): Influence of abandonment and monitoring methods on syrphid composition in mountainous meadows of Austrian and Swiss Alps. 48th Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ), Vienna, AUSTRIA, 10.09.2018 - 14.09.2018. In: Gesellschaft für Ökologie e.V. (GfÖ), Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Ökologie · Band 47/48.

Jernej, I; Bohner, A; Walcher, R; Hussain, R; Arnberger, A; Zaller, JG; Frank, T (2018): Impacts of land use intensity in mountain semi-dry meadows on earthworms, litter decomposition and plant diversity. European Geosciences Union General Assembly, Wien, 08.04.2018 - 13.04.2018, Geophysical Research Abstracts, 20, 19585-19585.

Jernej, I; Bohner, A; Walcher, R; Hussain, RI; Arnberger, A; Zaller, JG; Frank, T (2018): Impacts of land use intensity in mountain semi-dry meadows on earthworms, litter decomposition and plant diversity. 48th Annual Conference of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (GfÖ), Vienna, AUSTRIA, 10.09.2018 - 14.09.2018, Verhandlungen der Gesellschaft für Ökologie, 48, 49-49.

Arnberger, A., Eder, R., Alex, B., Hutter, H.-P., Bauer, N., Hofmann, M., Zaller, J.G., Frank, T. (2017). Restorative effects of managed and unmanaged Alpine meadows. In: Austrian Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape & Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (Eds.). Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Landscape and Human Health: Forests, Parks and Green Care, p. 44; ISBN: 978-3-902762-79-5.

Albarracin Lluncor, G., C.R. Vogl, V.V. Griesinger (2018). Interactúan el conocimiento académico y las instituciones científicas con actores, saber y conocimientos locales en la gestión de Reservas de Biosfera? El caso de la Reserva de Biosfera „oxapampa-Ashaninka-Yanesha“ y su saber sobre agrobiodiversidad. Poster presented at *Congreso Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas en Áreas Naturales Protegidas* (Scientific Research Conference in Natural Protected Areas) on 26-28 September 2018 at the agrarian university “Universidad Agraria La Molina”(UNALM), Lima (Peru).

Vienna, 28/05/2019